REMARKS

Claims 1-28 were rejected. Claims 1-10 have been canceled. Claim 16 has been amended. Claims 29-44 have been added. Claims 11-44 are now pending in this application.

A telephonic interview was held on February 13, 2002. Although agreement with respect to the claims was not reached, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Hwang and Supervisor Alam for permitting the telephonic interview.

As Applicants noted during the telephonic interview, Applicants believe that the previous arguments distinguishing the present invention over the previously cited prior art continue to apply with equal force. As requested by Examiner Hwang, and in an effort to clarify the present invention, Claims 1-10 have been canceled, and claims 29-44 have been added. In addition, claim 16 also has been amended clarify the present invention. However, Applicants believe that the neither the newly added claims nor amended claim 16 are narrower in any respect, but instead provide another focus for the contemplated invention.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' attorney at (215) 564-8946.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____, 2002

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Marked up versions of claim 16 amended herein, showing all of the changes relative to the previous version of each.

16. (Amended) A system for extending functionality of [an] a class object, comprising:

a processing unit;

a system memory in communication with the processing unit via a system bus;

a computer-readable medium in communication with the processing unit via the system bus; and

an extensible object model executed from the computer-readable medium by the processing unit, wherein the extensible object model causes the processing unit to create an extension object from an extension package when a [corresponding extension for an extensible object is first referenced and to delegate subsequence references to the extension to the extension object] requested functionality is not inherent in the class object, and wherein the extension object extends the class object to provide the requested functionality.